



Town of Pines Ground-Water Sampling Activities Continue

Town of Pines, Indiana

July 2002

This fact sheet provides information about the following:

- Pines site background and history
- Current and future site investigation and sampling activities
- Answers to the most frequently asked questions about the Pines site investigation and cleanup
- Future public involvement opportunities
- Contact information for the Pines site

Public Meeting

A public meeting to discuss the site activities will be held:

Date: July 17, 2002

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Michigan City
Public Library
100 East 4th Street
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 873-3049

Information Repository

Town of Pines Ground-Water Plume Site information is also available for review at the Michigan City Public Library.

Introduction

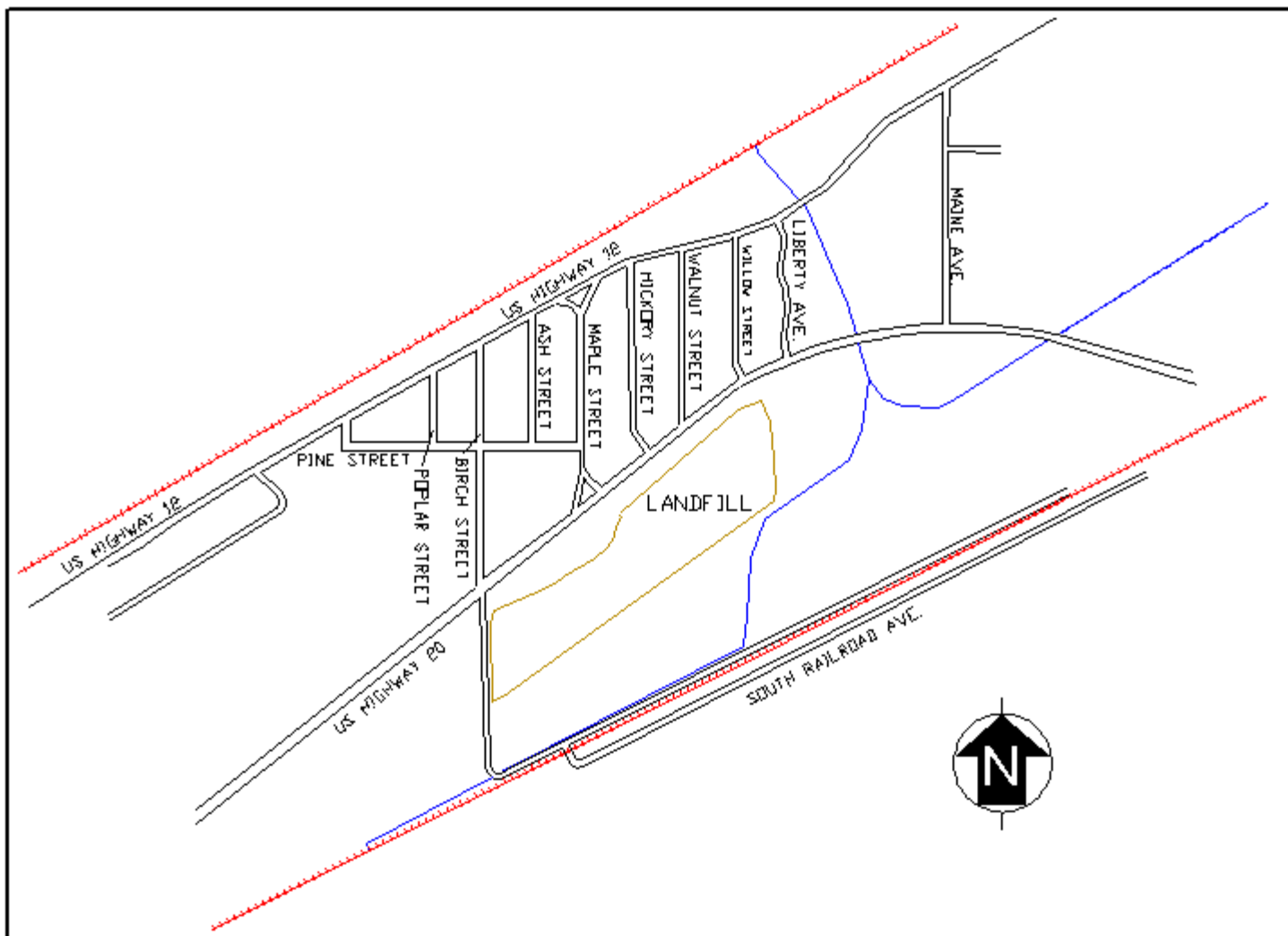
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), is performing site assessment activities at the Town of Pines Ground-Water Plume Site (Pines Site) in Pines, Porter County, Indiana. These activities include (1) documenting site conditions, (2) conducting ground-water sampling activities, (3) identifying contaminant pathways and the extent of contamination, and (4) analyzing sampling results.

Background

The town of Pines has a population of about 790 people and is located approximately 2 miles west of Michigan City, Ind., and 2 miles south of Lake Michigan. The area of concern that constitutes the Pines Site is bordered by U.S. Highway 12 (W. Dunes Highway) to the north, Maine Avenue to the east, S. Railroad Avenue to the south, and Pine Street to the west (see site location map on page 2). Site boundaries may change based on data gathered.

In April 2000, IDEM's Drinking Water Section received a complaint from a Pines resident that water from her private well tasted foul. In May 2000, IDEM sampled the well, and sampling results revealed the presence of several volatile organic compounds including benzene. Benzene was present in the well ground water at concentrations above EPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for benzene. MCLs are maximum permissible levels of contaminants in water determined by EPA and used to regulate public water systems. The following month, the well was resampled along with other nearby residential wells. The presence of benzene was confirmed in some wells sampled. Based on sampling results, IDEM provided carbon filters to the residents whose well water exceeded the benzene concentrations MCL.

In August 2000, IDEM contacted EPA about investigating this contamination under the Superfund Program, through their Co-operative Agreement with EPA. EPA and IDEM agreed that this site warranted a Superfund site investigation, and in September and November 2000, IDEM sampled private wells in the site area, including previously sampled wells. The sampling was conducted to determine if additional wells were impacted, to verify previous sampling results and to determine if this site



Site Location Map

was eligible for the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. Sampling results showed that two additional wells contained benzene at concentrations above its MCL, one well contained arsenic at concentrations above the MCL, and eight wells contained elevated levels of manganese. Manganese does not have an MCL; however, EPA provides removal action levels (RALs) for it. EPA developed the RALs, which are used to determine whether alternate drinking water supplies should be provided to residents under Superfund removal authority.

In January 2001, IDEM referred the site to EPA's removal program. During March and April 2001, EPA obtained permission from home and business owners to sample wells in the site area. Four rounds of sampling were conducted. The sampling

confirmed results from IDEM's previous sampling and also identified elevated levels of methyl-tertiary-butyl-ether (MTBE), a gasoline additive. All residents with wells containing contaminants at levels exceeding RALs were provided with carbon filters. In May 2001, EPA completed the removal assessment.

In July 2001, IDEM collected drinking water samples from about 30 private wells in the area to determine if the contamination was affecting additional wells. Sampling results indicated that water in three other residential wells contained elevated levels of lead. IDEM gave these residents filters to remove the lead.

In September 2001, IDEM conducted an expanded site investigation under its cooperative agreement

with the EPA and sampled ground water in residential wells and monitoring wells installed around one of the area landfills. Elevated levels of boron, manganese and molybdenum were also detected in some residential wells.

In January 2002, IDEM recommended that EPA propose the site to its National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. The listing would provide federal help and funds to clean up the contamination.

Current Site Activities

In May 2002, EPA was made aware of the most recent data gathered by IDEM, which showed that some contaminants were present at levels of immediate concern. EPA began conducting additional sampling of residential and monitoring wells to verify these levels of concern. Based on the results of the sampling activities, 55 samples have been taken to date, with more anticipated. To date, 24 affected residences and business have been or will

be offered bottled drinking water. EPA will continue sampling residential wells and offering bottled drinking water to properties with contaminated water. IDEM and EPA will continue working on the documentation necessary to propose the site to the National Priorities List.

Next Steps

- Continue working to propose the site to the National Priorities List
- Continue delineation of the plume of contamination
- Continue to offer affected residents bottled water
- Continue investigation as to a “point source or sources” of the contamination
- Research on alternate drinking water supplies, such as municipal water supply connection
- Conduct a public meeting to discuss ground-water sampling results and exchange information

Contact Information

If you would like additional information about the site, please contact the following people at EPA:

Janet Pope

Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
(312) 353-0628
pope.janet@epa.gov

Ken Theisen

On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
Superfund Division (SE-5J)
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Jan Pels

Early Action Project Manager
Emergency Response Branch
Superfund Division (SE-4J)
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pels.jan@epa.gov

U.S. EPA, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3590
toll-free (800) 621-8431

Or you may contact the following individuals:

Mark Jaworski

Project Manager
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Mark Johnson

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ATSDR
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (ATSD-4J)
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-0840



Information Repository

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100 East 4th Street
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 873-3049

Monday - Thursday
Friday and Saturday
Sunday (Labor Day
to Memorial Day; closed
during the summer)

9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mailing List Additions

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, you are not on the EPA mailing list for the Pines Site. If you would like your name added to EPA's mailing list, please fill out the information below and mail this form to:



Janet Pope
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA (P-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____